

REMARKS

Independent claims 1, 7, 14, 19, 26, 34, and 40 are rejected by the examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as the anticipated by Mann et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

During a telephonic interview between the undersigned attorney and the examiner on January 12, 2005, the various rejections of the claims were discussed with respect to the present invention and the cited prior art references. At the conclusion of the telephonic interview, it was the understanding of the undersigned attorney that it was agreed that Mann, et al. does not teach or suggest the feature of identifying reason information relating to at least one reason for generating a control message, nor does man teach or suggest the feature of generating a first control message which includes the identified reason information. However, the examiner states on page 2 of the office action that it was agreed that Mann et al. does not expressly disclosed using a reason information where the reason information is "no reason", "error", "user initiated", etc as specified in the disclosure of the application page 8, lines 1-6.

Accordingly, it is noted that there is a disagreement about the agreement which was reached at the conclusion of the telephonic interview on January 12, 2005. It is submitted that the description of reason information in the disclosure of the application page 8, lines 1-6, merely provides examples of different types of reason information which may be included in a control message. These examples are not intended to be the only types of reason information which may be included in such control messages.

Another telephonic interview between the undersigned attorney and the examiner was conducted on May 19, 2005. During this interview, the misunderstanding of the prior agreement was discussed and clarified. At the end of the telephonic interview it was agreed that Mann et al. does not teach or suggest including explicit reason information in a control message, wherein the reason information relates to the reason for generating the control message.

In reliance upon this newly established agreement, independent claims 1, 7, 14, 19, 26, 34, and 40 of the present application have been amended for clarification purposes in order to more accurately define the scope of the present claimed invention. It is respectfully requested that this amendment be entered after the issuance of the presently pending final office action in consideration of the misunderstanding as to the agreement which was reached during the telephonic interview of January 12, 2005.

As amended, claim 1 of the present application is directed to a method for generating a control message to be transmitted from a first network device to a second network device in a

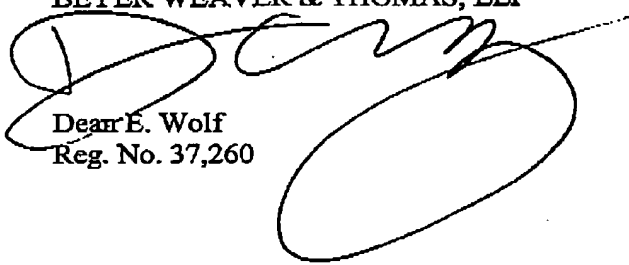
data network, the control message relating to an action to be performed at the second network device. The method comprises determining a first control message to be generated; identifying reason information relating to at least one reason for generating the first control message; and generating the first control message, wherein the first control message includes explicit reason information relating to the identified at least one reason for generating the control message. Since it is agreed that Mann at al. does not teach or suggest the feature of including explicit reason information in a control message, wherein the reason information relates to the reason for generating the control message, it is submitted that claim 1 is neither anticipated by nor obvious in view of Mann. Accordingly, claim 1 is believed to be allowable.

Independent claims 7, 14, 19, 26, 34, and 40 define features similar to those defined in claim 1, and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least those reasons stated above in support of claim 84. Additionally, the presently pending dependent claims are also believed to be allowable since they depend upon one of the presently pending independent claims.

Because claims 1-45 are believed to be allowable in their present form, many of the examiner's rejections in the Office Action have not been addressed in this response. However, applicant respectfully reserves the right to respond to one or more of the examiner's rejections in subsequent amendments should conditions arise warranting such responses.

Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
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